

Gateway Region Urban Sprawl: Metro East Sustainable Growth Resources Group

December 1, 1999

MEETING NOTES: Final

The notes provided below document the main points and meeting progress that were offered during the meeting on December 1, 1999. The notes highlight and summarize the key topics and issues that were discussed at the meeting. Selected attachments are provided in this document.

On December 1, 1999, the Metro East Sustainable Growth Resources Group convened at St. Mary's Hospital, Meeting Room A, in East St. Louis, Illinois. Ten participants were present at this meeting, including four steering committee members and four EPA representatives. A list of attendees is provided in Attachment A.

The charge for the Metro East Sustainable Resources Group is to "gather, develop, and disseminate information regarding growth issues in the Metro East Illinois Area." As a result of this charge, the goal for this particular meeting was as follows:

Establish a strategy for the Metro East Sustainable Growth Resources Group on the Illinois Growth Task Force. Also, the steering committee will establish action items regarding the education portion of its mission.

Welcome and Announcements

Mr. Mike Beezhold, Planning and Management Consultants, Ltd. (PMCL), and Mr. Andy Anderson, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) provided the group with an introduction and welcome to the meeting. The meeting agenda (Attachment B) was also reviewed.

Review of Previous Activities

Mike Beezhold provided a progress review of the Metro East Sustainable Growth Resources Group. Attachment C includes a copy of Mr. Beezhold's presentation, with a summary provided below. Mr. Beezhold noted that this was the sixth steering committee

meeting to be held. He reiterated the charge for the group, and reminded the group of the groups' three supporting cornerstones, which are education, planning, and the Illinois Growth Task Force. The full charge for the group is as follows:

The Metro East Sustainable Growth Resources Group is comprised of local, state, and federal organizations. Its mission is to gather, develop, and disseminate information regarding growth issues in the Metro East, Illinois area.

Mr. Beezhold reviewed events from the previous meeting, held on October 21, 1999. Six participants were in attendance, including representatives from the steering committee and the EPA. The goal of this meeting was as follows: "Define action items regarding planning to focus the future efforts of the Sustainable Growth Resources Group and monitor progress of smart growth initiatives and programs."

The meeting included discussions related to the Illinois Growth Task Force (Task Force). Illinois Representative Ricca Slone and Wyvetter Younge were present at the September meeting at which Rep. Slone suggested submitting a member's name to represent the group on the Task Force. Of importance at the present meeting were issues of due process regarding the selection of a Sustainable Growth Resources Group public member representative for the Task Force. Mr. Beezhold noted that as part of an effort that required a quick response for a representative on the Task Force, Ed Weilbacher was nominated to fill this slot. Because Mr. Weilbacher has already been recognized as the representative for the Sustainable Growth Resources Group, it would likely be best that he retain this position.

A review of the previous meeting indicates that the group is gaining momentum. Positive steps forward include gaining public membership on the Task Force and beginning the process of creating a vision document similar to one developed by the Stormwater Steering Committee. Future efforts will be to continue moving ahead in these areas.

Another highlight from this meeting was a presentation on the Southern Illinois Resource Conservation and Development Council (RC&D). Mr. Weilbacher, coordinator of the RC&D, provided the group with information on their activities that focus on seven counties in the southwest region of Illinois. The RC&D works with local groups in support of regional planning initiatives. Examples of these efforts include the Kaskaskia Regional Stewardship Plan, the East St. Louis Heritage Trail, and the American Bottom Partnership. The RC&D supports and promotes smart growth in the region.

A summary of the Livable Communities Conference, held on September 30, 1999, included an overview of the activities and experts in attendance. The conference included experts with various perspectives on smart growth planning. To summarize the conference Mr. Beezhold noted that there were many good ideas on how to deal with urban sprawl issues, however without positive leadership efforts these ideas can not easily be realized. Mr. Beezhold also noted that the Metro East area issues were

overshadowed by Chicago area concerns. It seemed that there were few who were really familiar with the Metro East area problems. Mr. Beezhold noted that this would be a good opportunity for the Sustainable Growth Resources Group to educate and inform.

Several contacts were made at this conference, including organizations such as Housing and Urban Development (HUD). HUD representatives were interested in learning more about the Metro East area and the group. The Campaign for Sensible Growth, a Chicago based organization, was also interested. This group is working on efforts similar to the Sustainable Growth Resources Group, and is currently going through visioning activities and putting together work plans. They are farther advanced than the Sustainable Growth Resources Group, but they are interested in attending a meeting and sharing their experiences.

At the previous meeting, Mr. Anderson provided an overview of the Stormwater Committee's vision document. The document was created as a marketing tool for legislative, public involvement and educational efforts. Mr. Anderson stated that a vision document may not garner much interest at this time, but it would be very important to be able to provide a vision to local officials after the next significant flood event. This would provide more awareness to these stormwater issues in the Metro East region and possibly result in some positive action. The Sustainable Growth Resources Group was encouraged to review the Stormwater Committee's vision document and to provide comments. This document was also used as a template for the Sustainable Growth Resources Group vision document compiled by the EPA. This document will be presented in more detail in a later section of the meeting notes.

The cornerstone of planning was addressed in more detail at the October 21st meeting. It was recognized that although the Sustainable Growth Resources Group would like to be involved with regional planning, there is no jurisdiction to implement planning efforts. However, the group can propose planning processes or practices that would benefit the region. County plans seem to vary in terms of how they are updated, who has them, and how local decisions are made based upon them. Mr. Beezhold noted, however, that the group's earlier suggestion of developing benchmarks, or to "grade" regional planning efforts in terms of how they address smart growth issues, is a good idea. The group would be able to make recommendations from a smart growth "tool box" that could be used regionally.

A search for regional planning documents continues. Mr. Beezhold noted that the group has not yet seen any county plans, but that efforts were being made to obtain these. The Southern Illinois Metropolitan Planning Commission (SIMPAC) and others have indicated that these plans do exist. Other meeting participants noted that some counties are still in the process of developing these plans, so they would not yet be available. In addition, counties such as Monroe have a plan ready, however there are still issues that need to be resolved. These issues are delaying release of the plans. A representative of the EPA noted that the group would be able to get copies of the Monroe County plan and digitized maps, however it would be about 30 days before they would be available.

St. Clair County data will be available through a Southern Illinois University contact, however Mr. Anderson clarified that there is a distinct difference in terms of collecting plans and collecting data. Each may be available, but from different individuals or entities. There is a comprehensive plan for St. Clair, but the Greenspace plan would require following up with Fontez Mark. The Greenspace plan would give the group an idea of what information the plans will have and what can be used to gain mapping and data on existing land uses. Tim Feather, PMCL, pointed out that it seemed clear that this information is very disjointed. What the information means in regard to decision-making is generally elusive.

The suggestion was then made that the group decide who should gather various information that is available. It was noted that those in the group who were working for county governments would be in the best position to try and gather some of this information. One participant noted that requests for this type of information from county governments has not yet been fruitful. Mr. Anderson added that the EPA had a list of good resources, however it was a matter of actually receiving the information. Finding out if these plans even exist and how the group might use this information is another parallel effort. The group may find out that much of the information that exists is not what the group needs, or it may not be in digital format yet. What the group needs to do is find information that can be merged into one comprehensive package reflecting regional efforts. Progress is being made in gathering this information.

EPA Gateway Team Update

At the last meeting a request had been made for the EPA to provide the group with an update on regional efforts by the EPA Gateway Team. Noemi Emeric, EPA, provided the group with this information. Her presentation is included in Attachment D, with a summary of the presentation provided below.

Ms. Emeric began by indicating that this update was intended to offer the group with a better understanding of what the EPA is trying to do in the Metro East regional area. The Gateway Team, or the Gateway Initiative, is just one of the initiatives that the EPA is involved with in this area.

Ms. Emeric explained that the EPA is organized by teams that include areas of expertise such as water, air, waste, and toxics, etc. The Gateway Team is also working in coordination with EPA team members on the Missouri side of the River. This coordinated team is using a multimedia approach to get a comprehensive look at the issues in this area. Currently there are four members on the Gateway Team, however if additional expertise is required EPA can provide that assistance to the Team. The idea, as with the Sustainable Growth Resources Group, is to create sustainability in the area, and not for EPA to take control.

Some of the projects ongoing now are participation in the Metro East Stormwater Committee, the Gateway newsletter, the Gateway web page (www.epa.gov/gateway), the CID office in St. Louis, three Superfund sites (NL Taracorp, Sauget areas, and 1 and 2 American Saint), the Environmental Justice Community University Partnership Grant, the East West Gateway Coordinating Council EMPACT grant, and the St. Clair County State's Attorney's Office paralegal assistance. Ms. Emeric noted that information could be posted on the EPA Gateway web site, provided it was related to ongoing Gateway activities. More information on the Superfund sites could be obtained from Gordon Blum, EPA, who is the contact for these three sites in the region.

Grant Programs

The Environmental Justice Community University Partnership Grant is one of several grant programs the EPA offers. This grant was given to the University of Missouri, who is working on efforts with Project Hope. These efforts are more focused on the St. Louis side of the river and will be closing soon.

The East West Gateway Coordinating Council EMPACT grant is a half million dollar grant focusing on abandoned areas such as buildings and lots. The EPA has been helping the Council to shape the grant.

A grant to the St. Clair County State's Attorneys Office helps fund a paralegal for that office. An EPA representative noted that this grant had just been extended. One steering committee member added that this grant was very useful to the area, and is money well spent.

Collaborative Gateway Projects

One of the Gateway Project's collaborative efforts includes the Urban Resources Partnership, which is a grant and technical assistance program. The EPA is also coordinating with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) on the American Bottom Interior Flood Control Project. The Tools for Schools Project is a partnership program with the American Lung Association. The program will monitor indoor areas in regional school systems for lead levels. It will also teach teachers how to monitor themselves, and will help to get kids involved in environmental issues.

The EPA is trying to compliment current lead level projects with efforts by the HUD Lead Based Paint Control Grant Program. One other lead level project is the Lead Soil Sampling Project. This is a \$75,000 grant that will fund the Illinois Department of Public Health to conduct lead soil sampling in East St. Louis. Lead soil sampling is necessary due to past industrial activities. This effort has been directed by the EPA in an attempt to pinpoint East St. Louis areas with elevated lead levels. Elevated lead levels would indicate a more serious situation, allowing the EPA to classify the area as a Superfund site. The EPA is also working to pinpoint responsible industries and try to get

some remediation for the area. Lead levels were already high in this area, which required the EPA to look further into the problem.

The EPA has also been working closely with the St. Louis Lead Coalition. This organization has two foundation grants that will help them with administration and startup costs. Dr. Mark, of St. Mary's Hospital in East St. Louis, has also been involved with this group.

The NL Taracorp Superfund Site is another current EPA project. This project is focusing on the cities of Granite City, Venice and Madison, and will have removed lead from 1,300 homes by December of this year. Enforcement action will be completed by early 2000. This was one of the EPA's largest clean up projects, and enforcement action will require community involvement. The effort is to provide industry fines to the community for cleanup efforts, instead of those monies being returned to the treasury.

The EPA also offers Brownfield Grants. A brownfield area includes derelict property where known contamination or even the perception of contamination exists, but the problem is not severe enough to be considered a Superfund site. Currently, the EPA is working with three brownfield grant projects in the region.

The City of East St. Louis, in partnership with the Corps, has received a \$200,000 grant to focus on waterfront redevelopment areas along the river. The Corps also received a \$293,000 grant to focus on a 260-acre Alcoa site, performing wetland delineations, habitat assessment and geotechnical mapping. This information will be used for internal flood control and ecosystem restoration plans.

A \$58,285 grant was provided to the RCGA to assess the impact of community brownfield redevelopment decisions. This information will be used to create a modeling tool that will be available as benchmarking information for other communities.

The EPA is also involved in environmental job training efforts. The EPA partnered with DePaul University to conduct environmental job training for residents near the NL Taracorp Superfund site. This project has trained approximately 25 individuals between the ages of 18 and 25. Several of these individuals were subsequently hired to do excavation work in their community. The EPA is also working with St. Louis Community College to help them apply for a \$200,000 Brownfields Job Training grant. The grant area would include East St. Louis with funds going directly to the college.

Upcoming Projects

One of the upcoming projects for the EPA in the East St. Louis area includes a \$50,000 illegal dumping prevention collaborative project. Internet Training is also going to be a new focus. A recent grant to the East West Gateway was used to survey

individuals in the East St. Louis area. This survey indicated that there were very few individuals in the area who use the internet for information. The EPA would like to find ways of getting internet access to those who don't currently have access. This effort would also help teach computer skills to those who do not currently possess them.

The EPA will be working through the Urban Resources Group to provide a Grant Writing Workshop. This workshop would provide interested groups with information on how to write grants. This effort will not only provide training, but will also bring in individuals who provide grants.

Another upcoming project is the State of the Environment Report. This project will provide information in laymen's terms regarding the local community environment. The current report needs updating, so \$5,000 has been requested for this project. This report will be for community groups as well as local and state governments. It is a type of promotional tool as well, to help influence progress in the area.

The Citizens Environmental Forum/Training is more of a community based effort. This project will help individuals and non-profit organizations get started in an effort to try and establish more leadership within the community. The EPA will also help support the St. Louis Clean Air Partnership and the American Lung Association to provide outreach and education to reduce ozone emissions.

Other proposed projects include the Air Toxics Reduction Strategy, to pursue wetlands enforcement and to investigate non-point pollution source watershed activities in an effort to reduce sediments and nutrients and restore the habitat, to participate in the "Clean Up the Mississippi Day", and to partner to develop an Annual River CleanUp Project. Two additional projects are the Neighborhoods United in Progress, which will work to inspect homes for lead abatement, and a grant to St. Clair County clinics.

Illinois Growth Task Force Meeting, October 21, 1999

Ms. Emeric provided the group with a summary of the Illinois Growth Task Force meeting held on October 21, 1999. A handout was provided to the group (Attachment E) which provides the Task Force's mission statement, as well as the agenda from the first meeting. A list of the public members on the Task Force, as well as a list of members on the public planning committee, are also provided.

Ms. Emeric noted that this meeting included fourteen political members, seven Senate and seven House members. The meeting was set up like a public hearing, however only those at the table could speak. Discussions included the group's mission, which was finalized and voted on, and selection of the public members. The Task Force political members also chose to remove the word "Smart" from their title.

There were several groups who had asked for inclusion on the Task Force as a public member. Because the group could only choose twelve public members, they decided to create a public member planning committee. This committee will work with the twelve public members, as well as the political members, to offer their expertise.

The Task Force members stated that the intent for public members was to have only one person representing each public member group. The political members noted that they were trying to create a group that would be consistently working together, and that member substitutions would not offer the kind of environment they were hoping for. Ms. Emeric also noted that travel funding for public members would not be available. Travel would be at the member's expense. In addition, the group has not yet made any decisions on where they may hold proposed public hearings.

The public is welcome to attend these Task Force meetings. Though the public will not have the opportunity to speak, typically the meetings will offer several presentations that would provide valuable information on growth issues from different areas of the state, and from other state models. It seems that the objective of the group is to provide future legislation that would impose loss of funding as a result of noncompliance.

Also provided during the meeting was information on The American Planning Association web site. This site includes statutes and planning information for all 50 states. Ms. Emeric noted that this may be a valuable resource for the Sustainable Growth Resources Group. Some of this information may be used to provide benchmarks for some of what this group is doing. Tennessee, New Jersey, Oregon, and Maryland are some of the more progressive states in the growth planning arena. In terms of the Sustainable Growth Resources Group vision document, the group may be able to mimic one or more of these state's efforts.

Mr. Beezhold also noted that the PMCL facilitation team was putting together a list of references, as a type of living library, for the group. The American Planning Association web site, as well as other resources that have been mentioned during these meetings, or offered to the group, will be added as a way of keeping track of information the group comes across.

Illinois Growth Task Force Meeting, November 29, 1999

Mr. Weilbacher was in attendance at the most recent meeting of the Illinois Growth Task Force on November 29, 1999. He noted that for several members of the group, this was their first meeting. Public members were allowed to join the political members at the table. Mr. Weilbacher provided the group with information on the agenda and meeting discussions (Attachment F), which are summarized below.

One of the presentations to the Task Force during this meeting was provided by Dr. Geritt Knaap, University of Illinois. Dr. Knaap suggested that the four proposed goals of the mission statement are premature. Dr. Knaap provided a list of questions, or issue items he proposed the Task Force address. The questions were provided as a way for the Task Force to channel their thinking on growth. Mr. Weilbacher noted that these questions may also be useful for this region (provided in Attachment F). The questions include issues such as how local governments plan, and land use zoning. Mr. Weilbacher noted that the Sustainable Growth Resources Group is already asking some of these questions, which seems to be moving it in the right direction. Much of Dr. Knaap's research, however, will not be available for two years. Mr. Weilbacher noted that it seems as though the Task Force may craft some type of legislative package within two years.

Another presenter, Joyce O'Keefe of the Openlands Project, recommended the formation of a new planning organization for the Chicago region. This presenter noted that there is faith in the current regional planning organization, the Northeastern Illinois Planning Commission (NIPC), but that it has no regulatory authorities, which is also true of the southwestern Illinois regional planning organization (SIMPAC). Ms. O'Keefe recommended that a new organization be provided with oversight authority that could oversee development. Mr. Weilbacher noted that he wasn't certain if any members of the group would entertain this type of request, but it was discussed.

Another suggestion made to the committee was that the Maryland and New Jersey models, which are being heavily considered as templates for an Illinois plan, may not be the best options to meet Illinois needs. The suggestion was that it might be better to reference these models while addressing the unique needs of Illinois, as opposed to copying the efforts of another state. This would also allow for the creation a plan that would be more appropriate for Illinois.

The Task Force then looked to Dr. Knaap for more information on taxes, as they relate to growth issues. Dr. Knaap did not have this type of research available, so the group stated the need to find experts on taxes and their implications on growth and sprawl, as well as how and why businesses make their decisions based upon tax codes.

Mr. Stuart Schrodtt, Illinois Department of Commerce and Community Affairs (DCCA), provided the Task Force with information on the regional planning history of Illinois. Important information from this presentation was that in the early days of planning, the state provided funds for regional planning. In fact, both NIPC and SIMPAC have received state monies for planning. Mr. Weilbacher noted that this information was contrary to information provided by Mr. Tom Wobbe, SIMPAC, at an earlier Sustainable Growth Resources Group meeting. This was verified by Steve Rothenburger, a political member of the Task Force, and who is part of the state budgeting office. Though Mr. Rothenburger did not state specifically whether the monies were provided for regional support, general support or for contracting support, they did in fact receive funds.

Mr. Weilbacher also noted that his impression was that Senator Maitland, who was previously on the McLean County Planning Commission, didn't necessarily feel that monies going to the regional planning commissions was the best way of spending these dollars unless there was guidance on what should be achieved. During this meeting there was also a pitch made to provide more monies to these regional planning agencies. The Task Force also discussed the fact that some of the regional planning agencies in the state really only covered one county. The group noted that there needed to be more regional efforts.

Mr. Tom Henderson, also from DCCA, then spoke to the Task Force about enterprise zones and TIF programs. He noted that there wasn't a lot of information, but that enterprise zones do require state oversight, providing some opportunity for the state to direct, massage or limit them as necessary. There is no state oversight for the TIF programs in Illinois. The only requirement is that a community file with DCCA and report their finances. Other than that, a community is free to create a TIF district with no approval from DCCA or other state agencies. Mr. Weilbacher noted that some of the Task Force members were not happy with TIFs and how they were working in the Chicago area. Mr. Henderson pointed out to the Task Force that some recent changes had been made to try and keep abuses from happening, though not much else has been done.

Industry development benefits were discussed next. Mr. Henderson discussed requirements for companies to qualify for these types of benefits, such as number of jobs and how long the jobs need to last. He noted that a city can take funds back from a company if these qualifications are not met. In some cases it seems to be more like a rebate - the company comes up with the money up front and then can be reimbursed after the requirements have been met.

Ms. Carla Berroyer, Bureau Chief with the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT), discussed the IDOT's recent growth management efforts. She stated that the IDOT was working on a number of plans around the Chicago area, including intensive work at growth and rail extensions for commuters. A study for best management practices, which has not yet been assembled, will be available in the next couple of years.

Ms. Berroyer further discussed road construction and its part in causing sprawl. Mr. Weilbacher noted that their position seemed to be of a defensive nature. Though Ms. Berroyer stated that in McHenry County no new road construction had been completed, Mr. Weilbacher pointed out that it would be instruction to look at the IDOT's definition of "new construction." Though it seemed there was no new construction in this area, there was a tremendous amount of growth. Although IDOT did not construct new roads, they did build congestion relief structures.

Ms. Mary Sue Barrett then presented information for the Metropolitan Planning Council. Ms. Barrett stated that their concern was for the loss of natural areas, wetlands and prime farmlands. Two hundred and forty thousand acres of prime farmland have

already been lost. Concern was also indicated for several Chicago area streams that did not provide suitable fish habitat. Ms. Barrett spoke about permit land programs and defining high-risk development areas as some of the possible solutions. Coordination with the IDOT and the public transportation systems was another concern, as well as a lack of affordable housing in the Chicago area, especially downtown.

The next Task Force meeting will be held on January 18, 2000, in Springfield, Illinois. The goal of the meeting will be to have more speakers come in to present information on taxes, planning, utilities, construction industries, and to possibly bring in experts from other states such as Tennessee, Oregon, Maryland and New Jersey. Though the Task Force doesn't have funds to bring speakers in, Mr. Weilbacher noted that it seemed the group would be able to get some monies. The objective is to first complete presentations by in-state experts, and then to move on to out-of-state expertise. Mr. Weilbacher then entertained several questions.

The Task Force will probably take the entire two years before making proposals for changes to planning management in the state. As for plans for future meetings, the objective seems to be to gather information from the remaining in-state experts during the next meeting (though they may not be able to hear all speakers). The following two to three meetings will be gathering information from out-of-state experts, with the following two to three meetings for public Task Force member presentation of issues and concerns. That will probably account for the entire year.

In terms of meeting locations, the University of Illinois suggested having a meeting there, so they could show the Task Force some of the work they have been doing in this arena. It seems that most of the meetings will be held in Springfield, however. No other discussion of meeting locations has been brought up.

A steering committee member asked about future public hearings. It was noted that having a hearing in the Metro East area may not seem that important to most of the Task Force members due to the overshadowing growth issues in Chicago. Mr. Weilbacher added that he had mentioned to the Task Force that there were flooding issues and concerns in the Metro East. He noted that he will continue to represent these issues during the future meetings.

Mr. Beezhold noted that as part of Mr. Weilbacher's presentation materials was a handout regarding the Campaign for Sensible Growth. They have an impressive membership list. The Campaign for Sensible Growth is supported by the Metropolitan Planning Council in Chicago. They are willing to come down and speak to the group. This would be an opportunity to learn more about them and they can learn about this group.

In general, this Task Force is a forum for the group to talk about problems in the Metro East area. This Task Force has a track record of discussion that has evolved for five years or more. Issues and concerns they have dealt with before to get them to this

level can be very informative for the Sustainable Growth Resources Group. The group may not be able to apply this knowledge directly to the Metro East area, but it can certainly gain a lot of information through participation. In addition, when legislation is developed, this group will be able to participate in the dialog and have input. One participant added that if this group were not at the table, they would have no input what so ever, so this is at least a starting point.

Mr. Weilbacher concluded by noting that whatever legislative package the Task Force may come up with, it will certainly have to be very comprehensive. Whether the focus will be on taxes, farmland protection, conservation, housing or a number of other issues, there will be several agencies affected.

Strategies: Illinois Growth Task Force

Mr. Beezhold lead the group in a discussion of strategies that would best utilize the opportunities available by having Mr. Weilbacher as a representative on the Illinois Growth Task Force. He noted that the next Task Force meeting will be January 18, 1999, and that the group may want to consider how it could best plan its next meeting, and subsequent meetings, around Task Force meeting dates. The group could either meet before a scheduled Task Force meeting, to provide Mr. Weilbacher with information important to the Metro East area that the group would like to see discussed. A second option is that the group could schedule meetings directly after a Task Force meeting.

Ms. Emeric, in agreement with other members of the group, suggested that having meetings after a scheduled Task Force meeting may be most useful. Mr. Weilbacher would be able to provide the group with information about what will be discussed at the next Task Force meeting, and allow for some time to discuss and think about those issues. The group could then supply Mr. Weilbacher with questions and comments that could be brought up at the next Task Force meeting. Final consensus indicated that meeting after the Task Force meeting dates would be the most advantageous for the group.

Related to this is the issue of agreement among the group members as to what the group represents. Though Mr. Weilbacher may know the group's various interests, it is still important for the group to tell him what is important in the Metro East area. It seems the group is focusing on a balance - one that is not trying to stop growth, but to realize that growth occurs, and trying to find ways of protecting the environment at the same time. This assumption should be agreed upon so that Mr. Weilbacher can best represent the group at the Task Force meetings. This will form the framework of information that will be provided in the group's vision document. The idea is that the group has a reason for meeting which can be embodied in some type of vision. Mr. Weilbacher will represent the group in that capacity, and as the group's representative, he will better be able to say "we think XYZ is important in the Metro East area".

The group was then asked if there was anything they felt Mr. Weilbacher should bring up at the next meeting. One participant questioned why money was being invested in expanding existing utility services out to greenfield areas, instead of looking at how to reuse what is already available. Mr. Weilbacher noted that this topic would probably be discussed at the next Task Force meeting.

A question was then raised about the Task Force's mission statement. The mission indicates that the Task Force will propose legislation, so the question was whether or not any wording had been created for legislation. Mr. Weilbacher didn't think there was any wording developed yet, and also noted that as a representative of the group, it would be his responsibility to provide the groups collective input. In addition, he noted that this would not be happening for two years. Currently, the Task Force is focusing on gathering information.

Mr. Anderson then questioned the group as to whether it was agreed that the group's strategy is to have Mr. Weilbacher represent this group, to get acknowledgement for the Metro East area, get funding for the group if possible, and to get group recognition. Also important would be to gather information that this group may be able to use in its own efforts, and to go beyond the group to decisions makers, and offer them information the group has gathered as well. Ms. Emeric added that also important was to disseminate this information in the area, so that it can be used when plans are being developed.

Mr. Feather stated that getting exposure to the Metro East area is probably the most tangible thing that could happen for this group over the next six months. Waiting for legislation would be a mistake. Instead, the group should use this opportunity to get exposure in the short-run. Hopefully, over the next four to six months, everyone on the Task Force will know about the Metro East area's issues. Then, when funding becomes available, this area will be recognized as having these issues. Mr. Beezhold added that three to four meetings from now Mr. Weilbacher will have the opportunity to present this group's issues to the Task Force, so the group should be prepared.

Other issues regarding strategies for the best use of the group's representation on the Task Force included further discussion regarding holding a hearing in the Metro East area. Mr. Feather wondered if it might be too soon to push trying to get a hearing in this area. Mr. Weilbacher didn't feel that it was, though one participant noted that the public was not yet educated enough for a hearing so soon. It was then reiterated that Task Force hearings in other areas such as the Metro East would not likely be held for some time yet.

Another participant added that there was the opportunity for the public to attend the Task Force meetings as well. Mr. Weilbacher clarified, however, that interaction between Task Force members and public observers was not possible. The setup does not allow for this type of interaction, however meeting members before and after the meeting, and during breaks, could prove beneficial.

A request was then made for a list of the legislators who were on the committee. It was pointed out that those in attendance at the last meeting were listed in the handout provided by Mr. Weilbacher (Attachment F), and that this information was also available in Growing Sensible, the Campaign for Sensible Growth's official newsletter. Mr. Weilbacher also offered to obtain a copy of this list for the group. It was also noted that the Task Force appears to include a fair number of heavy-hitters.

Sustainable Growth Resources Group Draft Vision Document Review

A request was made at the last meeting to have the EPA draft a vision document for the group similar to the one designed for the Stormwater Committee. Mr. Anderson provided the group with a copy of this draft document (Attachment G), and asked the group to provide him with comments and/or suggestions for changes and additions. All but one of the attending participants had received a copy of this document prior to this meeting.

Mr. Anderson began summarizing the document by noting that it was not a "magic" document that will solve the Metro East growth problems, but it can be used to promote sustainable growth through collaboration in the Metro East area. The document serves a dual purpose, both to promote important issues as well as to promote the group.

Some of the information provided in this document comes directly out of *A Framework for Coordinated Stormwater Work in Metro East*, the Stormwater Committee's Vision Document, but some sections still require better data and maps. The point of the document is to show that the Metro East area has a problem with urban sprawl. Though the growth issues here do not compare with those of the Chicago area, there is concern about sprawl coming from the St. Louis area. Areas west of St. Louis no longer have room to grow, so growth is beginning to move east, across the River. Growth occurring here is also tied to flooding and other important issues. This document should show growth in the Metro East area in conjunction with west-side growth, and how they are related.

The document begins with general statements about the problems in the Metro East area, such as brownfields, air pollution, costs of growth, taxes, city center decay, loss of natural areas, and loss of prime farmland. A first suggestion was that the document have some type of number that indicates the percent of prime farmland lost, or increase in land use. This might garner more attention to the problem. There was general agreement that this type of statement would be beneficial.

Mr. Anderson noted that after these general discussions, the document looks at ways of resolving some of these issues, followed by a review of who this group is, and that the group has been selected as a public member of the Illinois Growth Task Force. Mr. Anderson asked that the group review the document substantively, and see if there was anything missing, or anything that didn't belong. It was suggested that the group go

through it section by section to see if the correct messages were being communicated effectively. The group then decided to take an initial look at the Table of Contents. Comments made during these discussions are summarized below.

One participant noted that the area is commonly referred to as "The Metro East" and not just "Metro East." This should be reflected correctly in the document (on the title page and throughout). "American Bottoms" is correctly titled "American Bottom." This should also be corrected in the document.

Another comment was that comprehensive plans are inconsistent in documentation and implementation. It was suggested that this type of information be included in the document. Teresa O'Keefe had been in charge of obtaining some of this information, though she had been unable to attend some of the recent meetings. The suggestion was made that the group find other resources for obtaining this information. The group may need to contact board members representing these communities for the information.

A question was then raised as to how this document effort began. Ms. Emeric stated that at the previous meeting, the EPA presented a draft of the Stormwater Vision Document. The group had then requested that the EPA draft a similar document for this group.

Another suggestion made by the group was the issue of how regional issues were meddled among many different institutional authorities that deal with planning. The overlap issues could possibly be incorporated into the document. Especially in the Metro East area, politically the East West Gateway group has more power than SIMPAC. This should be addressed. Mr. Feather noted that earlier meetings had addressed who the effective agencies in the area were, and what their role was, so some of this information may be able to be pulled out of previous meeting notes. The message to get across is that planning efforts in the Metro East need to get together regionally.

An institutional piece, giving a more thorough background of the area, should also be added, probably to proceed Section III. And under Section II of the Table of Contents, one participant noted that the name Sustainable Growth Consequences may not be the best portrayal of what the group has in mind. It may be better stated as Consequences of Sprawling Development, which is the title given under the text in Section II.

It was also noted that the group needs to get someone on board who represents Monroe County, though this may be difficult. There are only three county board members, and it was noted that they are already pressed for time.

The comment was made that it would not be politically beneficial to be against growth in this area. Most communities are looking for more tax monies, often as a result of the lack of planning. What these communities often don't realize is that just because there is more housing, that doesn't necessarily mean there will be more tax monies. This

concept could probably be expanded more in the document. Figures indicating the amount of money spent due to growth in these counties may also be important information to gather.

It was then noted that the first section, Metro East, seemed to be very barebones, and lacking in color and flavor. Another participant added that this section should be covered more thoroughly, though caution was raised about making the document too detailed. If there is too much information, people may not take the time to read it. Instead it should be a snapshot of the regional area. The group seemed to agree, however, that the document could provide more thorough information without necessarily making it longer. What was needed was something to "hook" the reader and to grab their attention. The area has a lot of history and culture, and this excitement is missing from the document.

Mr. Anderson asked for volunteers who could draft a history section. He noted that this information would better be provided from someone local. One participant added, however, that instead of a history, the document should provide something much shorter and more effective. Mr. Anderson then noted that this information had been taken directly out of the Stormwater Vision Document, and it was added that a history of the area is not something the document should be trying to get at.

Questions were then raised about what the purpose of the document was, the format, and where the funds would come from to produce it. Responses indicated that the document was to be used as a quick snapshot of who the group is, why it exists, and what some of the best ways of solving Metro East area growth problems are. The audience could be anyone. It can also be used as a promotional tool - something to show the collaboration of people in the area, and to promote the group to local governments and the community so they know what is going on in the area, and best ways of protecting the environment.

In terms of the cost, the EPA has already agreed to make copies of a short document, but if the group decided at some point to create a color brochure, or something more comprehensive, then funds would have to be obtained for this cost. Mr. Weilbacher indicated that there are sources of funding to produce the vision document.

One participant stated that it seemed the document, as it is now, was a nice balance of facts and figures. Another suggestion was made that information on the costs of TIFs and other growth issues could be added. Some communities haven't thought about this aspect of growth in their planning decisions. This type of information may be important and may also get people interested. This type of specific local information has not yet been incorporated into the document. Unique areas, such as Monroe County which has well pollution and well failures that have risen from 50 to 80 percent, need to be incorporated. Mr. Anderson then noted that all these suggestions are good ones, and should be added, so now the group needs to find a way to gather this information so it can be incorporated.

An issue was then raised about the fine line between too much and too little information. Too much may cause readers to lose interest, but too little may not provide readers with enough information. Ms. Emeric noted that this is where the third cornerstone, education and outreach, fall in. This document may not cover everything, and will likely need to be supplemented with training and workshops that will add more information to what has been given in this type of document.

Kathy Andria was then asked to provide information that could capture the spirit of the Metro East for the first section of information in the document. Some type of history section, or "reality pieces" needs to also be added. A participant noted that the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) may be a good resource for comprehensive maps, aerial photographs and another suggested that much of this information may need to be turned into informative figures that can be incorporated into the document. A section on enterprise zones and TIF districts was also suggested.

Maps provided by the EPA (Attachment H) during the meeting were also discussed as elements of the document. Ms. Janet Haff noted that these were not the maps that were intended for use in this document, but that the EPA wanted to provide the group with an idea of the type of maps that would be useful. These maps were the result of an overlay of incompatible documents, therefore they may not be very accurate, but they offer you an idea of what they will look like. The EPA hopes to have better data soon, but it will probably not be available for at least 30 days. The maps indicated areas of growth in the three county area for 1970 to 1990.

Mr. Feather then noted that it seemed as if this document requires a lot more effort. For the purposes of the next few months, Mr. Feather proposed the possibility that the group try to highly simplify this document into something that will more quickly and effectively communicate the group's vision. He stressed that the group should not lose sight of this document, but should look for something that would be useful in the short run. Ms. Haff then noted that the EPA could put together a simpler, one to two page document that would better consolidate the information provided in the draft document. This effort may be more valuable than spending too much time trying to fill in the holes of the current draft version. The group generally agreed that this would be a good idea, and that the new document should include the mission statement and sound bytes and quickies of the important issues. This could also be interspersed with some of the sidebar facts and figures that were noted earlier.

It was also noted that there was an idea a couple of meetings ago to create a logo that would help catch people's attention. One participant noted, however, that the group's name seemed too cumbersome for a logo. However it was agreed that the group was now officially recognized by the Task Force under its current name, so changing it now would not be a good idea. Mr. Blum agreed to develop a draft logo for the group.

It was then recognized that the draft document was missing a page. Information from this page would be very useful for a one to two page document. It included group

objectives and participant benefits of membership. The EPA stated that they would use these objectives and participant benefits to begin development of the one to two page document. A draft will then be e-mailed or faxed to all committee members. PMCL agreed to make sure that all steering committee members received a copy of the draft document. Ms. Emeric then reiterated that the idea would be to create a logo and put together a one to two page document that would be sent to all members for their critique and input.

Mr. Beezhold then asked if the group felt a two-week window before the next meeting would give everyone enough time to review the draft document and provide EPA with comments before the next meeting. It was agreed that this timeframe would be appropriate.

Education Cornerstone

Due to time constraints, and the fact the key participants would be leaving shortly, it was agreed that this part of the agenda should be conducted at the next meeting. This arrangement would best serve the EPA's objectives as well, because the discussion of this cornerstone will be an extension of other things they are currently doing, so they will be able to collaborate on the best presentation of that information. The group agreed to address the education cornerstone at the next meeting.

One participant then asked if it would be appropriate for the group to meet without the EPA. EPA representatives agreed that this would be a good idea. At some point the group will need to take over, so making progress between meetings would be very beneficial. It was also noted that it might be much easier for local group members to meet, as there may be more flexibility with scheduling.

Stormwater Committee Vision Update

Mr. Anderson noted that things were moving forward and going very well. The last meeting had more participants, which is a positive sign that interest is starting to increase. The group has also obtained funding to get the document published in color. He also added that the group should review *A Framework for Coordinated Stormwater Work in Metro East*, and provide comments to the EPA.

Next Steps

Mr. Beezhold noted that the progression of the group is gaining momentum (this

presentation is provided in Attachment C). Though the group is not perfectly clear on where they want to be, they are moving along fairly efficiently. The group began with ideas, issues and perspectives that were puzzle pieces of interest. The group then worked on a direction they felt they should be headed in, and came up with a strategy on how to address their mission. This strategy resulted in cornerstone action items, and now the group is looking at a vision document that can be shared with others. The next step is looking at activities that can advance these items.

The following items represent the group's progress to date.

- Issues discussion
- Formulation of general direction
- Strategic advancement
- Establish vision
- Set forth general activities
- Pursue action items

The first four activities have been completed by the group. The group is currently identifying general activities. As the group begins to come together, these activities will be flushed out even more. Once these activities have been identified, use of the larger group will be to pursue these activities.

Also important are basic principles inherent in the development of this group, including:

- Multi perspective group aimed at sustainable development (balanced but progressive)
- Eventually, the group will work on its own
- The group is empowered as a public group
- Leverage funding and activities strategically
- Long standing, consistent force in Metro East concerning smart growth

These principles have been the basic thread that ties together past and future meetings.

Mr. Beezhold then reviewed activities for the new millennium meetings. Millennium Meeting #1 will prepare for the larger group coming back together. Millennium Meeting #2 will present the progress of the Steering Committee efforts to the larger group while seeking buy-in and providing motivation. Though some members of the larger group may feel they were not able to provide as much input into the resulting activities, it will be important to garner buy-in from the members. Some members may be lost because they feel they didn't have enough opportunity for input, but the group needs to focus on continuing the momentum and moving on with the activities at hand. It would be helpful to get a big name speaker in for this meeting to help draw interest and foster discussion among the larger group. Millennium Meeting #3 will be to organize

group members by the three cornerstone efforts, which will most efficiently and effectively accomplish the goals of the group.

Meeting Closure

In the section, Education Cornerstone, members of the group suggested meeting between formal meetings to ensure progress. The group was asked to contact PMCL if they decided to meet on their own between these meetings, and provide an overview of the results of that meeting. This would allow PMCL to effectively design the agenda for the next facilitated meeting.

The group had agreed that the best time for these meetings would be soon after scheduled Task Force meetings. Ms. Emeric had also noted that there were key people who needed to be at the table before this vision document could be finalized. It was also noted that some committee members, who have not been able to attend recent meetings, were still interested and should continue to be invited to participate. To help accommodate the schedules of these individuals, the group agreed on three potential meeting dates, with the final date to be sent to members with the next meeting's agenda. The group then agreed on three tentative meeting dates: January 20th, January 27th, and February 3rd, 2000. Steering Committee members and other invitees will be contacted to establish the best date for the next meeting. The time of the next meeting will be from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., with the meeting location to be determined.